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performing one or more operations [excepting interlocking said overlying unlaminated portion of said top layer with said unlaminated portion of said bottom layer and being] selected from the group consisting of sewing, stitching, welding, needling, fusing and gluing said overlying unlaminated portion of said top layer with said unlaminated portion of said bottom layer.--

REMARKS

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

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The Examiner's consideration of this matter is  
gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 2-6 have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 22 have been amended as follows:

--1(amended). A method for manufacturing a papermaker's fabric, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a laminated structure, said laminated structure having a bottom layer and a top layer, said bottom layer and said top layer each being strips of equivalent width and being laminated together, said bottom layer being transversely offset with respect to said top layer so that an unlaminated portion of said bottom layer is along one lateral edge of said laminated structure and an unlaminated portion of said top layer is along the other lateral edge of said laminated structure;

spirally winding said laminated structure in a plurality of turns wherein said unlaminated portion of said top layer in one turn of said laminated structure overlies said unlaminated portion of said bottom layer in an adjacent turn of said laminated structure; and

joining said overlying unlaminated portion of said top layer to said unlaminated portion of said bottom layer to form said papermaker's fabric, said joining including one or more operations excepting interlocking said overlying unlaminated portion with said top layer to said unlaminated portion of said

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bottom layer and being selected from the group consisting of  
sewing, stitching, welding, needling, fusing and gluing said  
overlying unlaminated portion with said top layer to said  
unlaminated portion of said bottom layer, and said papermaker's  
fabric being in the form of an endless loop having an inner  
surface and an outer surface.--

--22(amended). A papermaker's fabric for a paper machine, said papermaker's fabric comprising:

a laminated structure, said laminated structure having a bottom layer and a top layer, said bottom layer and said top layer each being strips of equivalent width and being laminated together, said bottom layer being transversely offset with respect to said top layer, so that an unlaminated portion of said bottom layer is along one lateral edge of said laminated structure and an unlaminated portion of said top layer is along the other lateral edge of said laminated structure; said laminated structure being spirally wound in a plurality of turns wherein said unlaminated portion of said top layer in one turn of said laminated structure overlies said unlaminated portion of said bottom layer in an adjacent turn of said laminated structure; said overlying unlaminated portion of said top layer being joined to said unlaminated portion of said bottom layer by performing one or more operations excepting interlocking said

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overlying unlaminated portion of said top layer with said  
unlaminated portion of said bottom layer and being selected from  
the group consisting of sewing, stitching, welding, needling,  
fusing and gluing said overlying unlaminated portion of said top  
layer with said unlaminated portion of said bottom layer.--